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COOPERATIVE EXTENSION WORK IN AGRICULTURE AND HOME ECONOMICS.

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AND STATE AGRICULTURAL COLLEGES
COOPERATING.

STATES RELATIONS SERVICE, OFFICE OF
EXTENSION WORK, NORTH AND WEST,
WASHINGTON, D. C.

SUGGESTIONS NO. 3.—BOYS' AND GIRLS' CLUB AGENTS, STATE, DISTRICT, AND COUNTY.

(FILE FOR REFERENCE.)

1. Midsummer, with its warm weather, insect pests, and plant diseases, accidents from storm, stock, and dry weather, calls for more definite attention to the follow-up work if we hope to succeed. Printed instructions, personal visits, field meetings, and club rallies may help some at this time.

2. The ultimate aim of club work is to use agriculture and home economics as a means for the education and training of the boys and girls, and not the boys and girls as a means for exploitation of men, institutions, or even for the direct boosting of localities or of sectional agriculture.

3. In all permanent printed instructions in the Boys' and Girls' Club Work, terms such as "contests," "prizes," "premiums," "donations," should be used modestly. By constantly keeping these terms before the club members emphasis is often given to the things of least value in the work. In their stead, use the terms "good health," "valuable experience," "better living," "greater efficiency," and "net profits."

4. The real object of a school garden is to point the way from the school to the home garden, and eventually to the economic relation of such a garden to the kitchen, dining room, and to the educational and vocational values to the children in their school relations.

5. Pork production is businesslike and profitable only so far as the producer raises his pigs on pasture of some kind and grows a considerable portion of the feed that fattens them.

6. It would be worth while to encourage all poultry club members in the work of real poultry management, which includes growing part of the feed and planning for the green feed during the winter months.

7. The organization and plans for a club project should contemplate work for the future of a constructive nature. Rotation systems should be recommended and club members urged to follow systematically rotation plans from the very first. In short, the farm club project should fit into the scheme of farm management which makes farming more enjoyable and more profitable, and the home economic club project should lead to efficient and businesslike home management.

8. Children should not be used for experimental purposes. The Federal Government and the States are spending large sums of money to finance experiment stations and to carry on experiments in order that truth may be established at the expense of the Government and the States and not at the expense of the children or individuals who as a rule can not afford the necessary time and expense.

9. A demonstration carried on by a club member is designed to prove to the community as well as to the club member that the truth discovered by experiment stations, colleges, and Government laboratories is practical for the average farmer or the home builder to adopt, and will get worth-while results on a larger scale.

10. Every demonstration carried on by club members should not only teach how to obtain a result by showing the relation of this result to the education represented by the school, but should correlate this with the activities of home and farm practice.

11. A boys' and girls' contest is a subactivity of Junior Extension Work or of the Boys' and Girls' Club Work, is something that can be undertaken and completed in a comparatively short time, and has certain very definite values in the encouragement and furtherance of efficient club work when efficient local leaders are impossible. Usually the contests have to do with some of the play activities carried on in connection with club festivals, county and State fairs, and other educational meetings, and deal with matters of winning honors, ribbons, medals, educational trips, and school credit grades, but these should always be considered secondary in importance to the real work in a club project.

12. Boys' and Girls' Club Work or junior extension is subdivided into a series of practical educational projects covering a growing season or a calendar year, and the success of these projects depends upon carefully planned and carried out follow-up work.

13. A suitable 10-book library for boys and girls in the club work might well be recommended and suggested by club leaders. It should be based not only upon the agriculture and home economic interests but on the general educational and community interests that environ the child.

14. When visiting club members upon their club plats always commend truthfully, then follow with helpful suggestions for improvement.

15. In directing boys and girls have in mind and emphasize the importance of club members continuing in a certain project for a series of years, adding to the activities rather than changing the project interest for each year.

16. The most important phase of club direction is the demonstration of truths and practices. This is the reason why the home canning demonstration engagements have been getting such important results in many of the States. Plan other demonstrations in a similar way.

17. Do you know or feel sure that the plans you have inaugurated for your club projects will influence the home and farm practice throughout the State?

18. Much of the Boys' and Girls' Club Work is dependent upon the county superintendent and his teaching force, but do not depend too largely upon these leaders from June 1 to September 1. If you do, follow-up work will be neglected in many of the counties in your State. Have you arranged for substitute leaders when the teachers leave their schools?

19. Normal stages of development in club leadership are:

- (1) Desire to serve the people and be a part of the great movement.
- (2) A careful survey of the State, soil, climate, people, and conditions, and a careful selection of a few things to do well for the people.
- (3) The making of definite plans for the carrying out and a definite delivery of the projects.
- (4) A carefully planned system of follow-up organization, field instructions, and field work.
- (5) Definite results—a high percentage of achievement with but few or no "quitters."
- (6) Success, public approval and appreciation, self-respect, a broad and permanent foundation for future constructive work, a growing cause, with added interest and normal development.

O. H. BENSON,

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